the county. Along the whole course of Hawling's river, a distance of twelve miles, and its tributary branches, as well as in the valley of Reedy branch, which also empties into the Patuxent, there are valuable meadow grounds. This region possesses also some fine tracts of woodland, consisting of white and black oaks, yellow poplar, (*Liriodendron Tulipifera*,) hickory, some chestnut and gum. The chestnut occurs more especially on the ridges, whilst the bottoms are covered by large poplars and sycamores. The curled maple (*Acer Striatum*) is not uncommon in shaded forests growing upon the rocky soil in the vicinity of Unity. Finally, in reviewing the agricultural advantages of the county, it is not unimportant to state that it is abundantly watered by numerous and constant streams, affording a good supply of water power, and the wells, that are commonly sunk to the depth of from thirty to fifty feet, yield, almost everywhere, water of great purity; thereby contributing largely to the comfort and health of the inhabitants.

2d. *Basin of Rock Creek*, &c. This division will be made to embrace not only that portion watered by Rock creek and its tributaries, but one to the N. E. about the head waters of the N. W. Branch of the Potomac, and to the S. W. that portion of country having its drainage through Cabin-John's and Watts' branches. The prevailing rock in this division is the *talcose slate* traversed by veins of *quartz*, frequently containing *schorl*, from which the numerous detached fragments of this mineral that are observed scattered over the surface of the country in all directions, have doubtless proceeded. In some cases the veins are very large and consist of a pure white quartz; that having more effectually resisted the disintegrations and decompositions brought about by time in the strata which they traverse, form more rugged and more elevated ridges composed of large disrupted masses that have been mistaken for bowlders; but as they show no marks of being water-worn, and that a more careful examination proves them to be intimately connected with the surrounding formation, the explanation just given of their occurrence and appearance is probably the correct one. From these ridges generally proceed the smaller masses previously alluded to as strewing the surface of the ground. But although the talcose slate is the predominant rock in this region, it frequently passes into *hornblende slate* and sometimes into *steatites*, whilst very usually the beds of the streams expose to view the *gneiss*, *micaslate*, *sienite* and compact *hornblendes*. It is a subject perhaps worthy of remark in the geology of Maryland, that a transverse section made through the primary rocks of the State exhibits the more highly crystaline aggregates, at the Eastern extremity, occupying a lower position in reference to the slate rocks contiguous to the transition series.

The region under examination consists in a succession of subordinate hills between the more elevated ridges, that are characteri-